

THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, and 25-30, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

image pickup means;

encoding means for encoding a moving image signal output from the image pickup means using an intra-encoding method and an inter-encoding method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding means extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding means encoding image signals of a plurality of pictures included between adjacent extracted each consecutive pair of the intra-encoded pictures, ~~which are~~ extracted for every n pictures, by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding method;

recording means for recording the encoded image signal generated by the encoding means on a recording medium;

transmission means for transmitting the encoded image signal generated by the encoding

means to an external apparatus ~~while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal;~~
and

control means for controlling the encoding means and the recording means in accordance with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal by the transmission means, to change a number of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent extracted consecutive pairs of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures so that the encoding means ~~generates the intra-encoded picture does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted~~ for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claims 2-3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means further controls the encoding means to reduce the number of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent consecutive pairs of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures so that the encoding means ~~generates the intra-encoded picture does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted~~ for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claims 5-24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

image pickup means;

encoding means for encoding a moving image signal output from the image pickup means using an intra-encoding method and an inter-encoding method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding means extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding means encoding image signals of a plurality of pictures included between ~~adjacent extracted~~ each consecutive pair of the intra-encoded pictures, ~~which are~~ extracted for every n pictures, by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding method;

recording means for recording the encoded image signal generated by the encoding means on a recording medium;

transmission means for transmitting the encoded image signal generated by the encoding means to an external apparatus ~~while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal~~; and

control means for controlling the encoding means and the recording means in accordance with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal by the transmission means, to change a rate of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the ~~adjacent extracted~~ consecutive pairs of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every

n pictures so that the encoding means ~~generates the intra-encoded picture~~ does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 26 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the control means further controls the encoding means to reduce the rate of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the ~~adjacent consecutive pairs of the intra-encoded pictures~~ extracted for every n pictures so that the encoding means ~~generates the intra-encoded picture~~ does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 27 (currently amended): An image pickup method comprising steps of:

generating a moving image signal;

encoding the moving image signal using an intra-encoding method and an inter-encoding method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding step including extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding step including encoding image signals of a plurality of pictures included between ~~adjacent extracted~~ each consecutive pair of the intra-encoded pictures, which

are extracted for every n pictures, by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding method;

recording the encoded image signal on a recording medium;

transmitting the encoded image signal to an external apparatus ~~while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal~~; and

controlling the encoding step and the recording step in accordance with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal in the transmission step, to change a number of intra-encoded pictures interposed between the ~~adjacent extracted consecutive pairs of intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures~~ so that the encoding step ~~generates the intra-encoded picture does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted~~ for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method according to claim 27, wherein the control step includes controlling the encoding step to reduce the number of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the ~~adjacent consecutive pairs of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures~~ so that the encoding step ~~generates the intra-encoded picture does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted~~ for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An image pickup method comprising steps of:

generating a moving image signal;

encoding the moving image signal using an intra-encoded method and an inter-encoded method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding step including extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding step including encoding image signals of a plurality of pictures included between ~~adjacent extracted~~ each consecutive pair of the intra-encoded pictures; ~~which are~~ extracted for every n pictures, by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding method;

recording the encoded image signal on a recording medium;

transmitting the encoded image signal to an external apparatus ~~while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal~~; and

controlling the encoding step and the recording step in accordance with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal in the transmission step, to change a rate of intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent ~~extracted~~ consecutive pairs of intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures so that the encoding step ~~generates the intra-encoded picture~~ does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures even if in a picture group without changing a rate of frames included in the picture group and even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method according to claim 29, wherein the control step includes controlling the encoding step to reduce the rate of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent consecutive pairs of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures so that the encoding step ~~generates the intra-encoded picture~~ does not change the intra-encoding of the intra-encoded pictures extracted for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.